

Inquiries of the Ministry

(Text):

HEALTH AND WELFARE

ROYAL COMMISSION—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister when he expects to receive the report of the royal commission on medical care headed by Mr. Justice Emmett Hall?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, but I will be glad to look into the matter and reply tomorrow or Monday.

LIVESTOCK

ALBERTA—MARKETING OF CATTLE BECAUSE OF DROUGHT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, on Monday last the hon. member for Medicine Hat asked if it would be possible to open up additional acreage at the defence research board Suffield research station for grazing. As the hon. member knows, some 142,000 acres have been released and are now controlled by the Department of Agriculture for emergency grazing and I regret that more land cannot be made available without seriously affecting the defence research operations. To allow a larger percentage of the property to be filled with livestock would make it impossible for the experimental work to take place.

I should point out that the 142,000 acres referred to were originally turned over to the Department of Agriculture in 1961 on account of the acute drought then being experienced in that area and were for emergency grazing only. As the drought continued, this emergency measure has been extended to 1962 and 1963. I should also add that in addition to the provision of grazing areas hay has been cut under Department of Agriculture supervision and made available to the ranchers.

BROADCASTING

OTTAWA—REFUSAL OF LICENCE FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE STATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Berthier-Maskinonge-Delanau-diere asked me this question:

Can the minister confirm that he has advised the board of broadcast governors of his refusal to recommend the granting of a licence to Radio-Prestige for a private French speaking radio station in Ottawa, such a refusal being contrary to the B.B.G.'s decision?

[Mr. Deschatelets.]

He also asked this supplementary question:

Does the Minister of Transport know that this application for a permit has been warmly supported by one of the most representative organizations of the French minority of Ontario, that is the French Canadian association of education of Ontario?

The answer, Mr. Speaker, is as follows:

Early in February of this year the board of broadcast governors recommended the granting of licences for two new French language radio stations in the Ottawa area. The new stations were the French language radio station of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and the other a private station referred to in the question as Radio Prestige. The decision to grant the C.B.C. licence as recommended was taken on May 23. The decision not to approve the issuance of a licence for Radio Prestige was also taken on May 23. This latter decision ne vient pas en contravention avec la décision du B.G.R.

In so far as the supplementary question is concerned, Mr. Speaker, the minister does not know that the application had been warmly supported by the French Canadian education association.

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temiscamingue): The minister just said that the decision was not in contravention of a decision rendered by the B.B.G. If it is not in contradiction, will he say that the decision is contradictory?

Mr. McIlraith: No; under the legislation the board of broadcast governors have authority to recommend a station for a licence. Then, under the act, the governor in council must grant or refuse the licence.

GRAIN

POSSIBLE INCREASE IN GRAIN HANDLING CHARGES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I was asked if I had been informed of the meeting of the board of grain commissioners in Vancouver in the near future to consider a possible increase in elevator grain handling charges, and if the Department of Agriculture had any power to regulate these charges since any increase would be of great concern to prairie farmers.

The department has been informed of the meeting to be held by the board of grain commissioners in Vancouver on July 3. This is a routine meeting held annually at which interested parties are invited to meet with the board and present any submissions